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Attorney Docket: 658/49679CO
PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



Applicant: JOERG GIESLER ET AL.

Serial No.: Not Yet Assigned
(Continuation of S.N. 09/784,338)

Filed: October 11, 2001
(Parent Appln. filed February 16, 2001)

Title: SYSTEM FOR DELIVERING ELASTOMERIC MEDIA, USE OF THE
SYSTEM AS WELL AS TWO OPERATING METHODS

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Box FEE AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination and calculation of fees, please
preliminarily amend the above identified application as
follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 3-5, 7-11, and 13-17 as follows:

3. (Amended) System according to Claim 1, characterized
in that the screw projects into the casing of the gear pump.

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4. (Amended) System according to Claim 1, characterized in that the filter is arranged between the gear pump and a spraying head.

5. (Amended) System according to Claim 1, characterized in that the screw casing has at least one conical part, and the screw has, in the area of the conical part, at least one tapering, and in that, for the controlled feeding of energy into the pumping medium, the screw is axially displaceable in the screw casing.

7. (Amended) System according to Claim 5, characterized in that the tapering of the screw increases viewed in the delivery direction of the medium.

8. (Amended) System according to Claim 5, characterized in that the screw has a double-helix-type construction.

9. (Amended) System according to Claim 5, characterized in that a tangential plane on the screw in the area of the tapering encloses an angle of from 2 to 10°, preferably 8°, with the center axis of the screw.

10. (Amended) System according to Claim 5, characterized in that the length of the screw is less than five times, preferably three times, the diameter of the screw.

11. (Amended) System according to Claim 5, characterized in that the screw-type extruder has a cylindrical part in addition to the conical part.

13. (Amended) System according to Claim 5, characterized in that the length of the cone is less than the diameter of the screw.

14. (Amended) System according to Claim 1, characterized in that the screw and/or the screw casing each have one hollow space respectively with at least two openings for admitting and discharging a temperature adjusting medium.

15. (Amended) Use of the system according to Claim 1 for delivering elastomeric media, particularly caoutchouc.

16. (Amended) Method of operating the system according to Claim 2, characterized in that, when a metal piece is detected, the delivery of the pumping medium is interrupted in that the drives of the screw and of the gear pump are stopped.

17. (Amended) Method of operating the system according to Claim 2, characterized in that a detection of a metal piece is indicated to an operator who intervenes in the transport

process of the pumping medium for removing the metal piece
without requiring an interruption of the production process.

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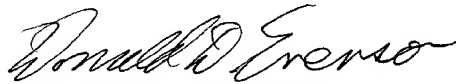
REMARKS

The above amendments to the claims are requested in order to eliminate multiple claim dependency, thereby reducing the amount of the government filing fee.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #658/49679).

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In each claim appearing below, deletions are bracketed and additions are underlined.

3. (Amended) System according to [Claim 1 or 2] Claim 1, characterized in that the screw projects into the casing of the gear pump.

4. (Amended) System according to [one of Claims 1 to 3] Claim 1, characterized in that the filter is arranged between the gear pump and [the] a spraying head.

5. (Amended) System according to [one of Claims 1 to 4] Claim 1, characterized in that the screw casing has at least one conical part, and the screw has, in the area of the conical part, at least one tapering, and in that, for the controlled feeding of energy into the pumping medium, the screw is axially displaceable in the screw casing.

7. (Amended) System according to [Claim 5 or 6] Claim 5, characterized in that the tapering of the screw increases viewed in the delivery direction of the medium.

8. (Amended) System according to [one of Claims 5 to 7] Claim 5, characterized in that the screw has a double-helix-type construction.

9. (Amended) System according to [one of Claims 5 to 8] Claim 5, characterized in that a tangential plane on the screw in the area of the tapering encloses an angle of from 2 to 10°, preferably 8°, with the center axis of the screw.

10. (Amended) System according to [one of Claims 5 to 9] Claim 5, characterized in that the length of the screw is less than five times, preferably three times, the diameter of the screw.

11. (Amended) System according to [one of Claims 5 to 10] Claim 5, characterized in that the screw-type extruder has a cylindrical part in addition to the conical part.

13. (Amended) System according to [one of Claims 5 to 12] Claim 5, characterized in that the length of the cone is less than the diameter of the screw.

14. (Amended) System according to [one of the preceding claims] Claim 1, characterized in that the screw and/or the screw casing each have one hollow space respectively with at least two openings for admitting and discharging a temperature adjusting medium.

15. (Amended) Use of the system according to [one of Claims 1 to 14] Claim 1 for delivering elastomeric media, particularly caoutchouc.

16. (Amended) Method of operating the system according to [one of Claims 2 to 14] Claim 2, characterized in that, when a metal piece is detected, the delivery of the pumping medium is interrupted in that the drives of the screw and of the gear pump are stopped.

17. (Amended) Method of operating the system according to [one of Claims 2 to 14] Claim 2, characterized in that a detection of a metal piece is indicated to an operator who intervenes in the transport process of the pumping medium for removing the metal piece without requiring an interruption of the production process.